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*Ueber epileptische Amnesie.* HERMANN HELMING. Inaug. Dis. Halle, 1883.

Dr. Helming has studied, with special reference to memory, a case of epileptic insanity. The patient had epileptic spasms occurring periodically, showed a suspicious and violent character during intervals of sanity, and in periods of insanity manifested characteristic symptoms of epilepsy, having sense hallucinations, great ideas, religious delirium, and the like. Yet, generally, for some time after attacks of insanity, the patient remembered all that had occurred, except what happened during the convulsions. Also in attacks of insanity he remembered the events of previous attacks. Hence the author concludes that defect of memory, which has been deemed a chief characteristic of epileptic insanity, cannot be relied upon. The ability to recollect what has occurred during an attack does not exclude the possibility of epilepsy. Instead of depending upon a single symptom, more stress should be laid upon the general character of the attack and the epileptic nature of the patient. This thesis contains a brief summary of theories of epileptic insanity, and to it is appended the usual bibliography. W. H. B.

*On the Dissolution of the Functions of the Nervous System in Insanity, with a Suggestion for a New Basis of Classification.* J. MACPHERSON. Am. Jour. Insanity, January, 1889.

Following Hughlings Jackson, the author looks upon the insanities of maturity as dissolutive. In general this dissolution is shown chiefly in one of the great fields of mental function, emotion, intellect or will, though more or less in all. Dissolution in the first results in melancholia and mania, in the second in the delusional insanities, in the third in insanities of the moral and impulsive kinds, and, since the power of origination depends on will, in dementia.

*Alcoholic Heredity.* Dr. F. LEUTZ, Medical Director Government Insane Asylum, at Tournai, Belgium. Quarterly Journal of Inebriety, April, 1888.

Dr. Leutz adds nothing new to our knowledge of alcoholic heredity, and his short paper is simply a review of the opinions brought forward by others, but the subject is of such universal importance that it may not be improper to note the two forms that alcoholic heredity assumes. The first is homologous heredity, or that of similitude; second, the heredity of transformation, or eccentric heredity. In the first form the progenitor gives to the descendant his tendency to alcohol, or symptoms of his alcoholism; in the second form, the alcoholized mental state of the progenitor becomes transformed into varied nervous disorders. No one denies the direct heredity, but there is but little agreement about the frequency of its transmission. The multifarious forms in which the second class appears, in irritability, instability, and a vicious moral disposition, need not be dwelt upon. W. N.

*Proceedings of the Congress of the National Prison Association of the United States, held at Boston, 1888.* Edited by the Secretary, FREDERICK HOWARD WINES, Springfield, Ill.

While the Proceedings are naturally and by right mostly taken up with questions of administration and of the improvement of